

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04177 031314Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 /076 W

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O R 031220Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4689

INFO USDEL PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: SAIGON ARCHBISHOP CALLS FOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE

1. SAIGON ARCHBISHOP NGUYEN VAN BINH APRIL 3 ISSUED MIMEO-
GRAPHED STATEMENT. OUR TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT - OPINION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF SAIGON ON THE
PRESENT SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY

3. IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COUNTRY, WITH THE
EXTREMELY EXCITED STATE OF MIND OF THE PEOPLE, ALL CIRCLES
EARNESTLY WISH FOR AN IMMINENT CHANGE IN THE NATIONAL LEAD-
ERSHIP.

4. THIS WISH FOR CHANGE WAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED BY THE APPEAL
OF THE SENATE ON APRIL 2, 1975.

5. I TAKE NOTE OF THE LEGITIMATE WISH OF THE PEOPLE
AND I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU MUST
RESPOND TO THE PEOPLE'S WISH AND TO THE APPEAL OF THE
SENATE FOR A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP.

6. SAIGON, APRIL 3, 1975, PHAOLO NGUYEN VAN BING,
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04177 031314Z

ARCHBISHOP OF SAIGON

7. COMMENT: ARCHBISHOP TOLD US AT NOON (BEFORE STATE-MENT APPEARED) TODAY THAT HE WAS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE AS MOST IMPORTANT CATHOLIC LEADER TO SPEAK OUT IN PRESENT CRISIS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SURE THIEU SHOULD RESIGN. BINH SAID HIS STATEMENT WOULD CARRY ONLY HIS OWN NAME AND WOULD NOT BE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE OTHER VIETNAMESE BISHOPS. THAT WOULD LEAVE THEM FREE, HE SAID, TO SUPPORT HIS APPEAL OR NOT AS THEY WISHED.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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